

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 8, 2002 LB 176, 719

paid for, totally, by the employee. In most states of the Union an employer has the opportunity of...of a...providing a variety of group health benefits. And in Nebraska, because of the curious structure of the law, we're limited to one type of group health. What this bill would do would be to allow small employers, if they choose to do so, it's completely voluntary on the part of small employers, to offer a...a group health insurance plan that would be paid for 100 percent by the employee. But the employee, and this is the important point, by virtue of the employer having set up this plan, gets to pay pretax dollars so that in fairness, then, an employee who benefits...who is...who is subject to this...to this type of plan gets the same kind of tax break that an employee who has...more similar to an employee who has a traditional kind of group health insurance. So it provides an option to the employer, and it provides the ability to make pretax payments on the part of the employee, and it follows the law of most states. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Open for discussion. I see no lights on, Senator Beutler. Senator Beutler waives closing. The question before the body is the advancement of LB 719 to E & R Initial. All in favor of that vote aye, opposed nay. We're voting on advancement of LB 719. Have you all voted who care to? We're voting on advancement of LB 719, vote if you care to. Have you all voted who wish to? Record please, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, on the motion to advance the bill.

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 719 does advance. Mr. Clerk, LB 176.

ASSISTANT CLERK: LB 176 was introduced by Senator Bourne. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time January 4, 2001, referred to Judiciary Committee. Committee reports the bill to General File with no committee amendments.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bourne, you're recognized to open on the advancement of LB 176.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President. This bill is similar